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KAMANDI

KAMANDI

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THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!

FAMOUS NAME

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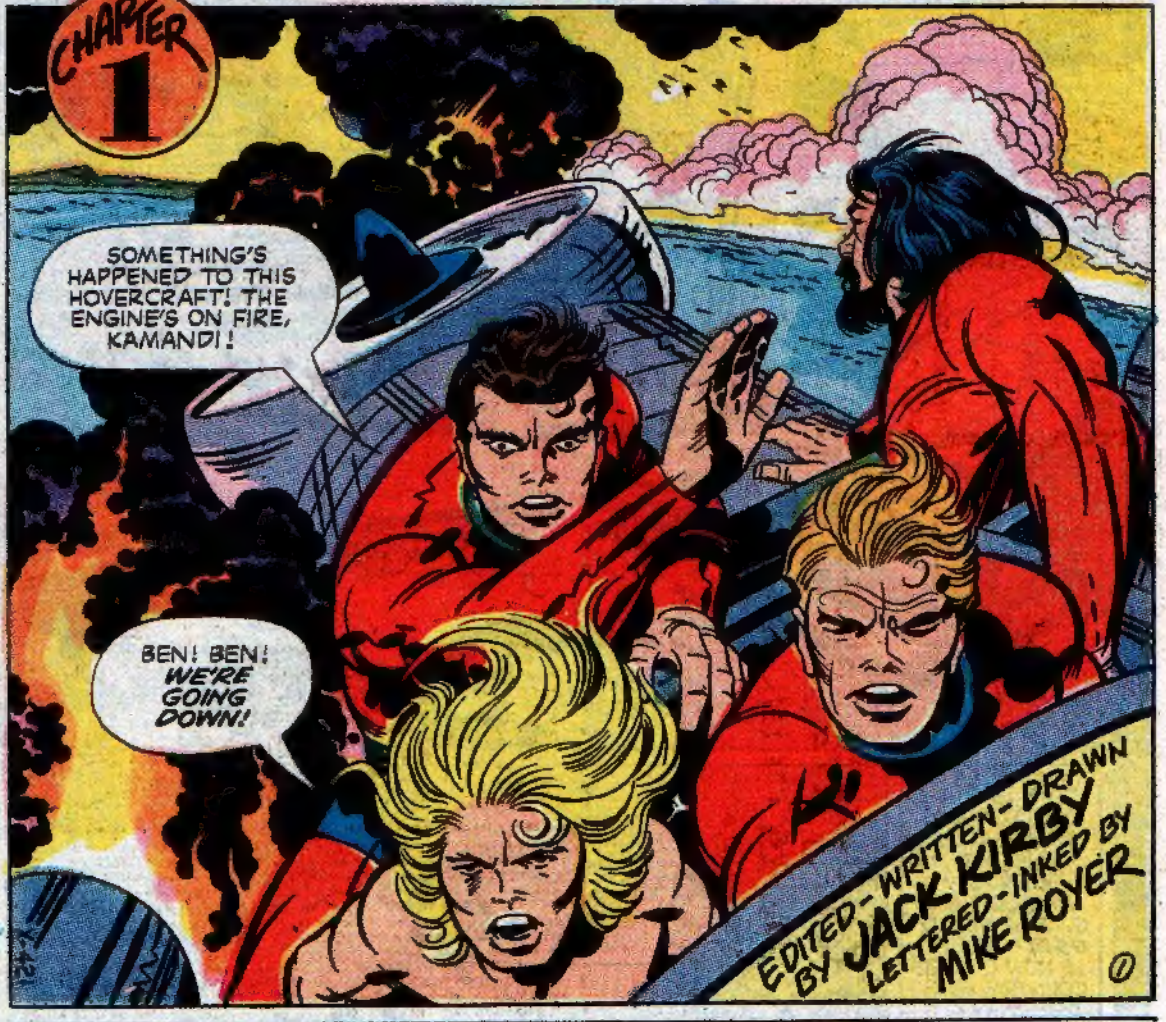
READER, BE WARNED-!!!

THE THEME OF THIS COMIC IS A *NEW* AND PERHAPS DISTURBING *EXPERIENCE!* IT MAY MAKE YOU WONDER ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT MAY BE IN STORE FOR THE WORLD WE LIVE IN! *HERE THE WORST HAS HAPPENED!* A NATURAL DISASTER HAS STRUCK THE EARTH---AND MAN IS *LOW* ANIMAL ON THE TOTEM POLE! THOSE WHO CAN *STILL* REASON ARE IN DESPERATE SEARCH OF A HOME IN THIS NEW WORLD---THE WORLD OF---

KAMANDI

THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!


CHAPTER 1
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THIS HOVERCRAFT! THE ENGINE'S ON FIRE, KAMANDI!
BEN! BEN! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
EDITED-WRITTEN-DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY
LETTERED-INKED BY MIKE ROYER

KAMANDI, THE LAST BOY ON EARTH, Vol. 2, No.11, Nov., 1973. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, N.Y., N.Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Jack Kirby, Editor. Steve Sherman, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Advertising Representative. Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright ©1973 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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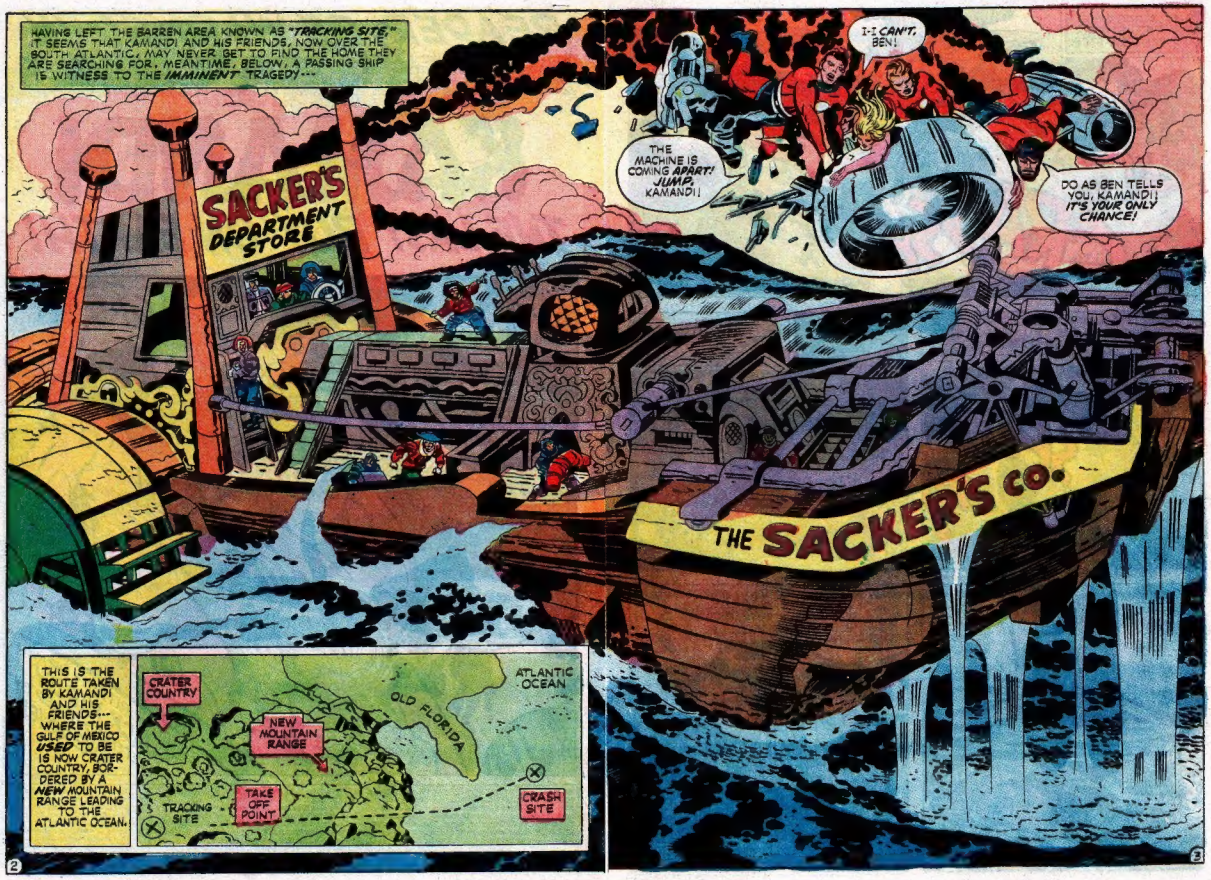
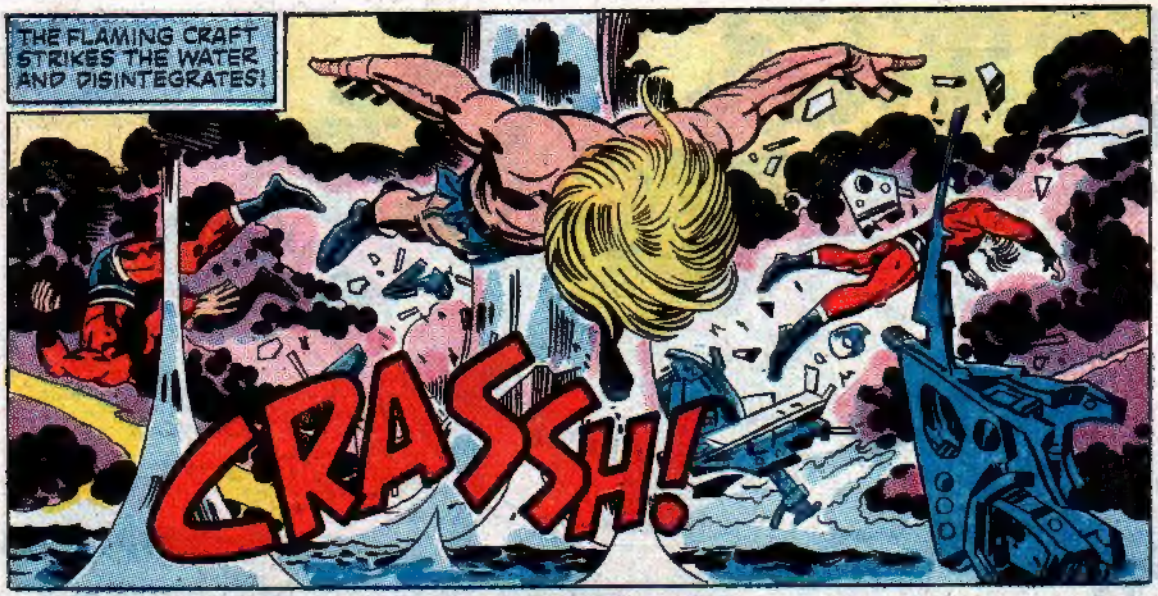
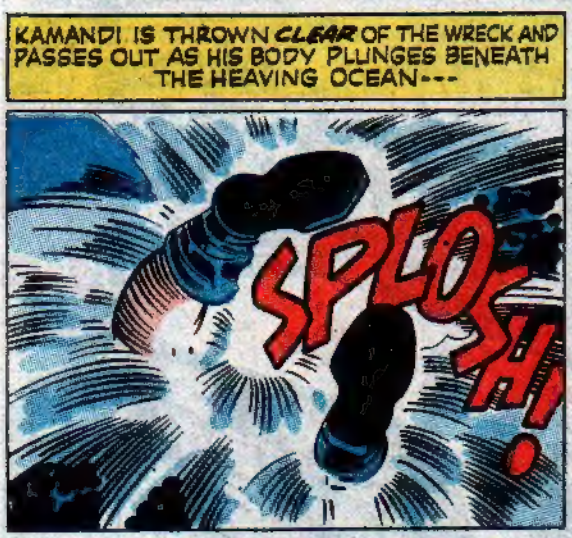
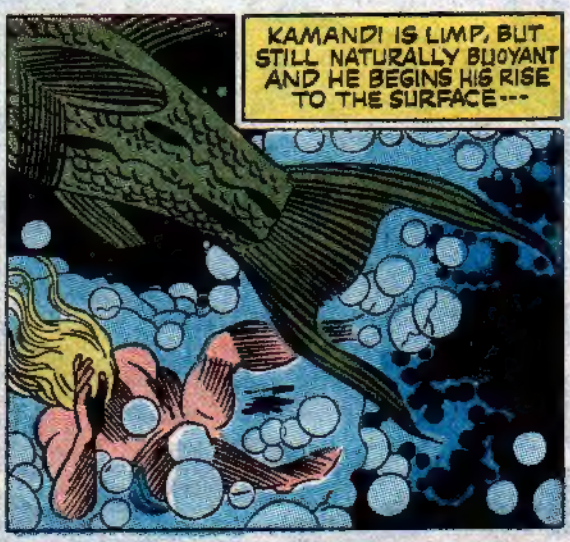
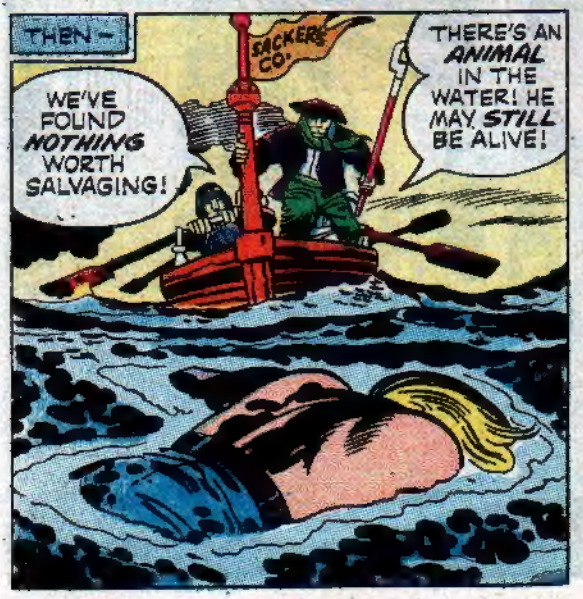
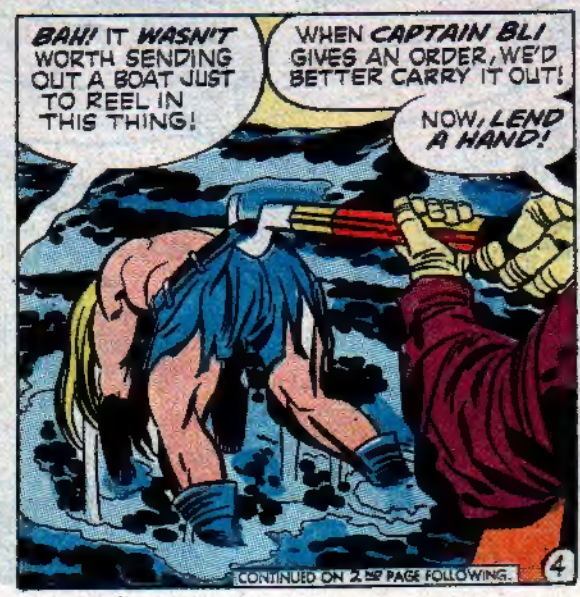

HAVING LEFT THE BARREN AREA KNOWN AS "TRACKING SITE," IT SEEMS THAT KAMANDI AND HIS FRIENDS, NOW OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, MAY NEVER GET TO FIND THE HOME THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR. MEANTIME, BELOW, A PASSING SHIP IS WITNESS TO THE IMMINENT TRAGEDY---
SACKER'S DEPARTMENT STORE
I-I CAN'T, BEN!
THE MACHINE IS COMING APART! JUMP, KAMANDI!
DO AS BEN TELLS YOU, KAMANDI! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!
THE SACKER'S CO.
THIS IS THE ROUTE TAKEN BY KAMANDI AND HIS FRIENDS--- WHERE THE GULF OF MEXICO USED TO BE IS NOW CRATER COUNTRY, BORDERED BY A NEW MOUNTAIN RANGE LEADING TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
CRATER COUNTRY
NEW MOUNTAIN RANGE
OLD FLORIDA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
TAKE OFF POINT
TRACKING SITE
CRASH SITE
2
2


THE FLAMING CRAFT STRIKES THE WATER AND DISINTEGRATES!
CRASSH!


KAMANDI IS THROWN CLEAR OF THE WRECK AND PASSES OUT AS HIS BODY PLUNGES BENEATH THE HEAVING OCEAN---
SPLOSH!


KAMANDI IS LIMP, BUT STILL NATURALLY BUOYANT AND HE BEGINS HIS RISE TO THE SURFACE---

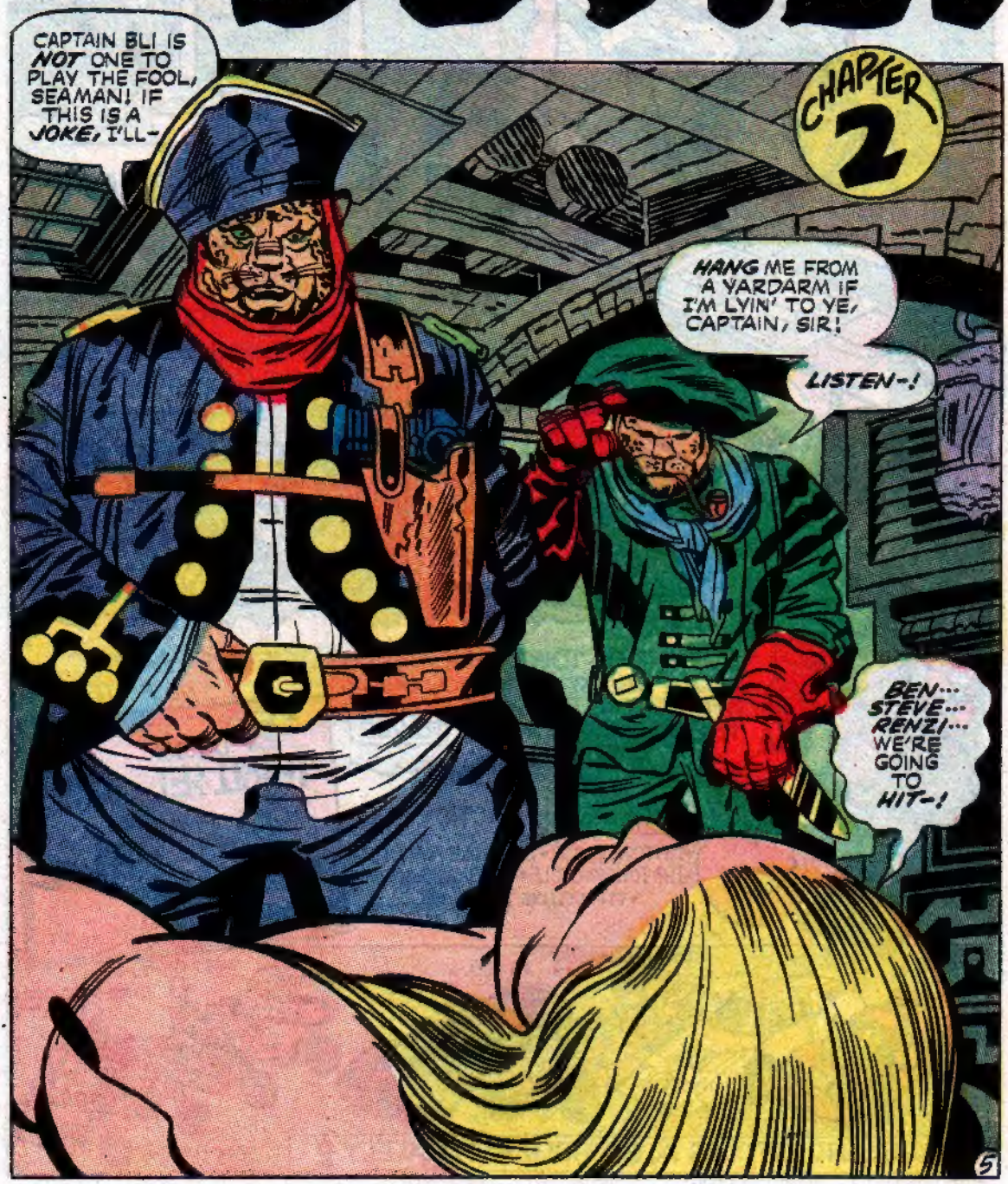

THEN --
SACKER'S CO.
WE'VE FOUND NOTHING WORTH SALVAGING!
THERE'S AN ANIMAL IN THE WATER! HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE!

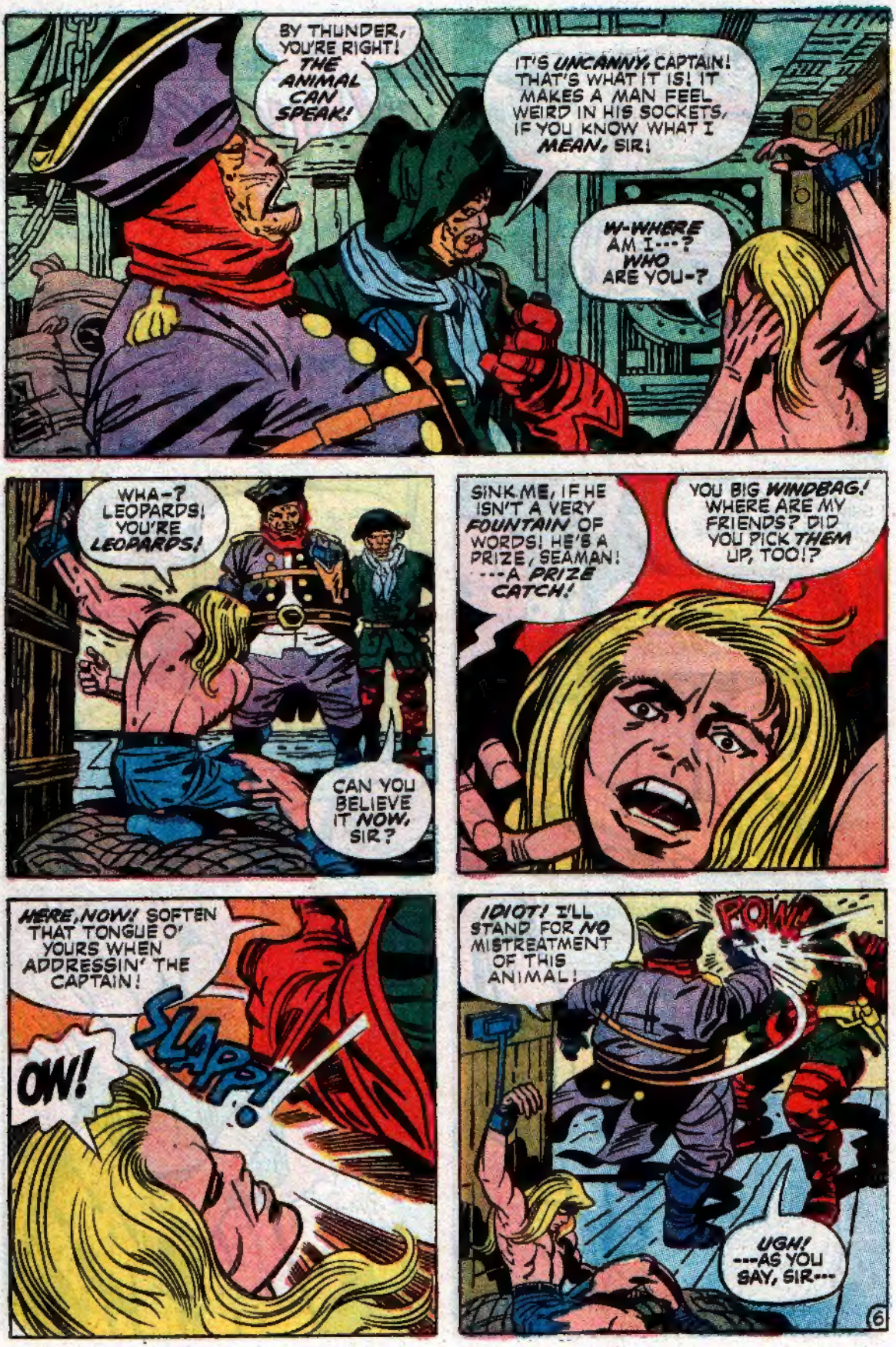

BAH! IT WASN'T WORTH SENDING OUT A BOAT JUST TO REEL IN THIS THING!
WHEN CAPTAIN BLI GIVES AN ORDER, WE'D BETTER CARRY IT OUT!
NOW, LEND A HAND!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

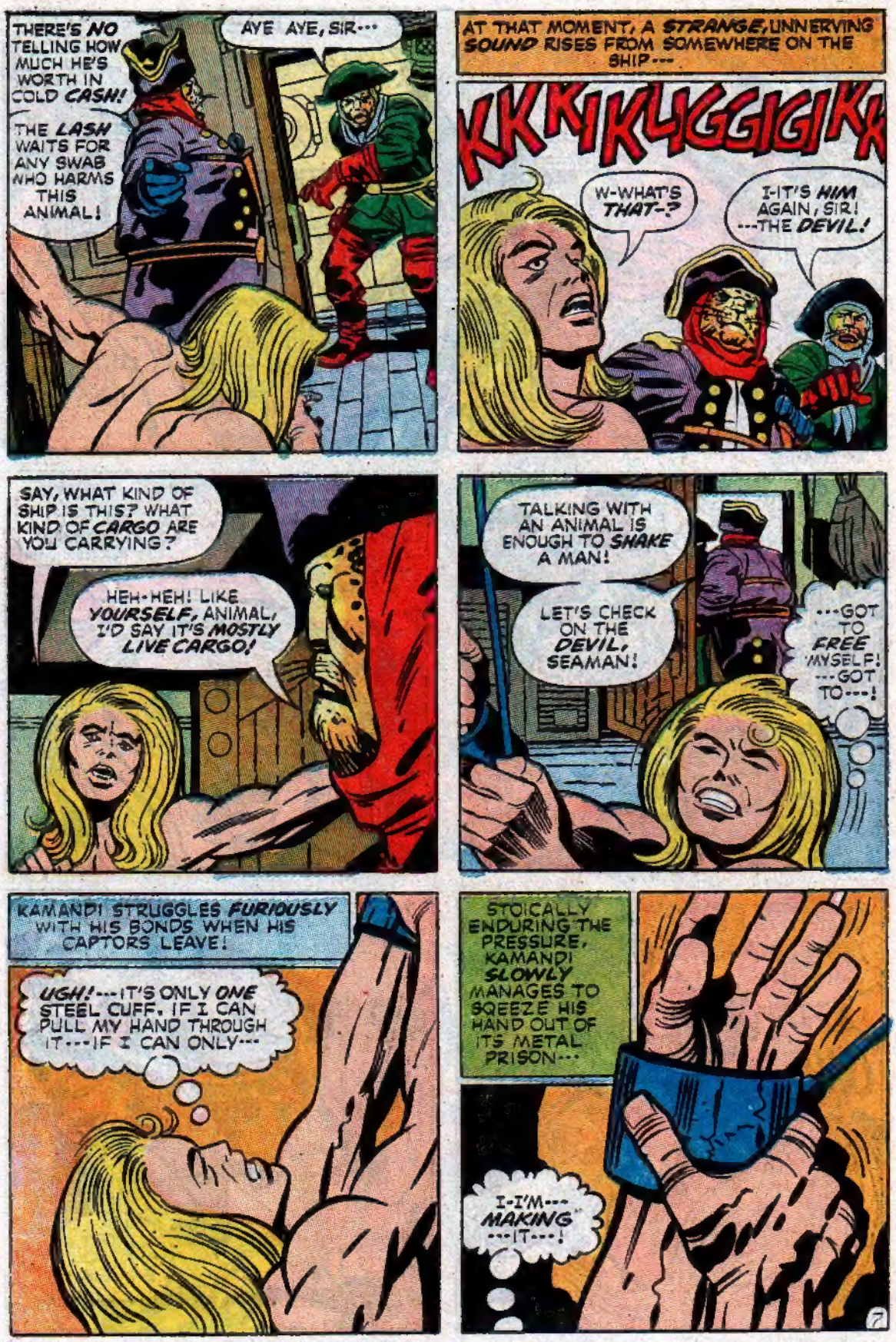
DAREDEVIL STUNTS-
WILD ACTION!
WHIRRRRRRR
TTP
TURBO TOWER OF POWER
Kenner
General Mills
CORNERS ON TWO WHEELS, LIKE THE PROS!
WILD WHEELIES!
PUMP THE TOWER-HEAR THE JET-LIKE WHINE!
AS AIR JET SPINS GYRO-POWER WHEEL FASTER AND FASTER...
THE POWER IS IN THE TOWER!
NO BATTERIES!
DELUXE THRILL SET
5 EXCITING Kenner ACTION SETS
•TTP TOWER&CAR •TTP CYCLE ACTION SET
•TTP TOWER&CYCLE •TTP CAR STUNT SET
•TTP DELUXE THRILL SET
FERRARI
MERCEDES C-111
DYN-O-CHARGER
FUTURA-X
TURB-O-CHARGER
TURB-O-BUSTER
TURB-O-CHOPPER
TURB-O-FLASH
CARS AND CYCLES ALSO SOLD SEPARATELY!

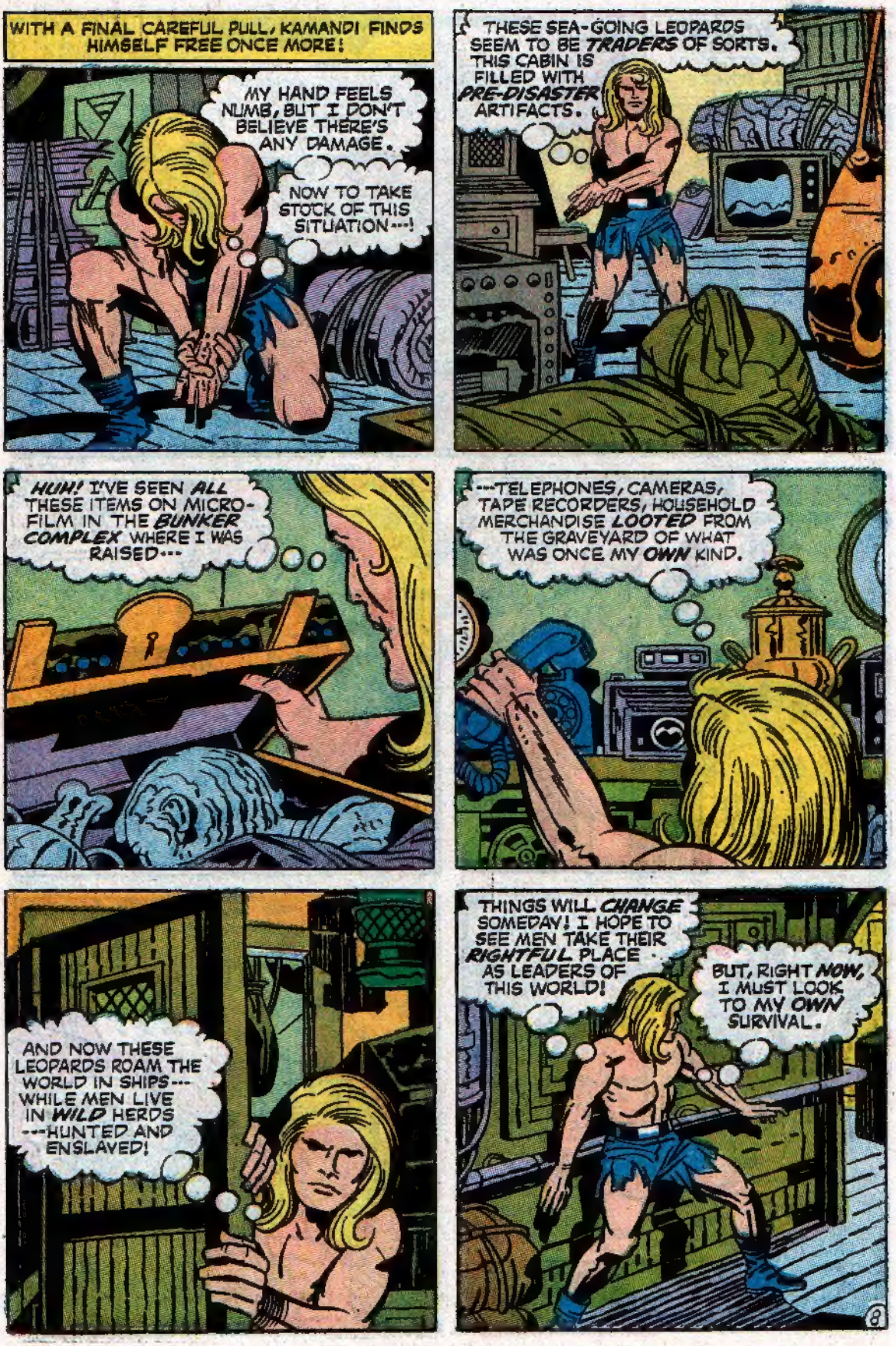
FOR KAMANDI, AN ODYSSEY FILLED WITH BRIGHT HOPE HAS SUDDENLY COME TO A TRAGIC END! AWARENESS SLOWLY RETURNS TO HIM---AND THOSE LAST TERRIBLE MOMENTS FLOOD HIS THOUGHTS WITH NIGHTMARE VISIONS! ALTHOUGH HE IS STILL TOO WEAK TO ACT, KAMANDI REALIZES HIS DESTINY HAS TAKEN A DIFFERENT TURN. A STRANGE AND SINISTER TURN--- IT WILL LEAD HIM TO---

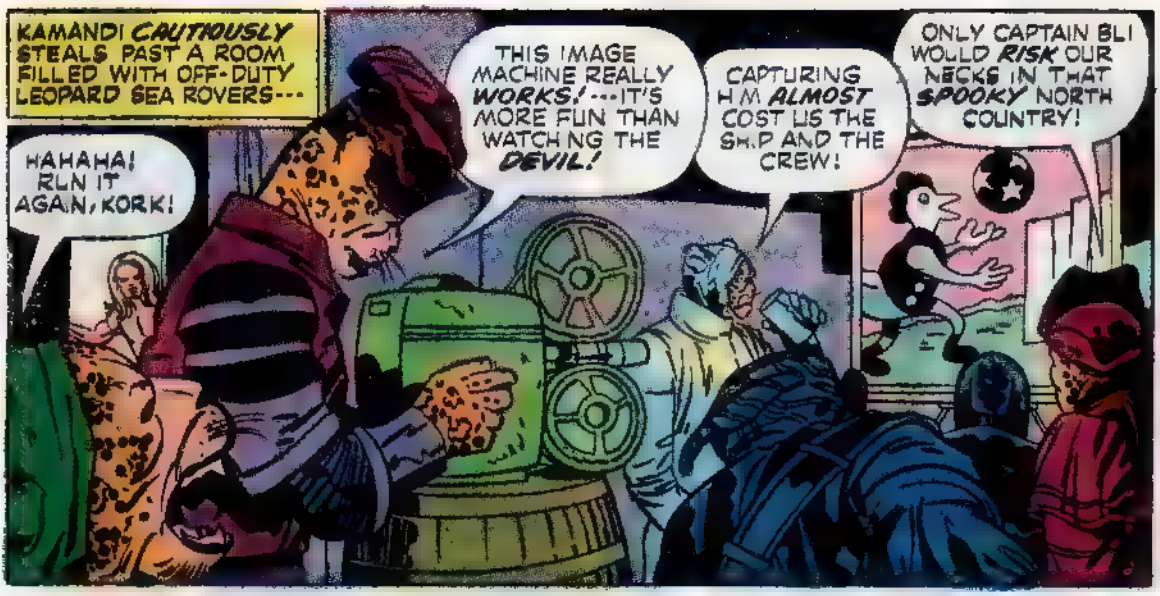
THE DEVIL!

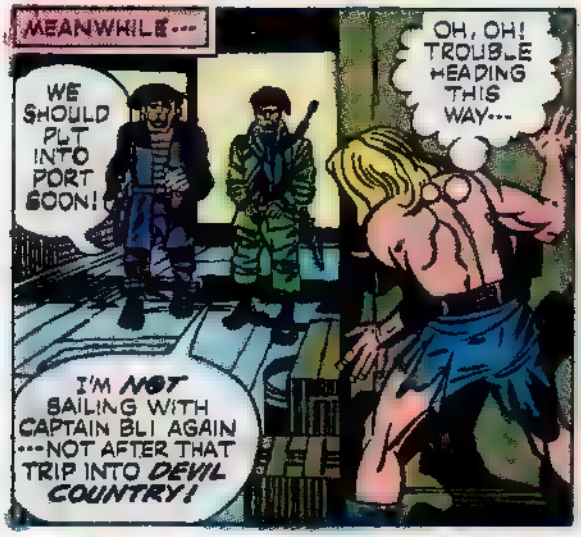

CAPTAIN BLI IS NOT ONE TO PLAY THE FOOL, SEAMAN! IF THIS IS A JOKE, I'LL-
CHAPTER 2
HANG ME FROM A YARDARM IF I'M LYIN' TO YE, CAPTAIN, SIR!
LISTEN-!
BEN... STEVE... RENZI... WE'RE GOING TO HIT-!
5

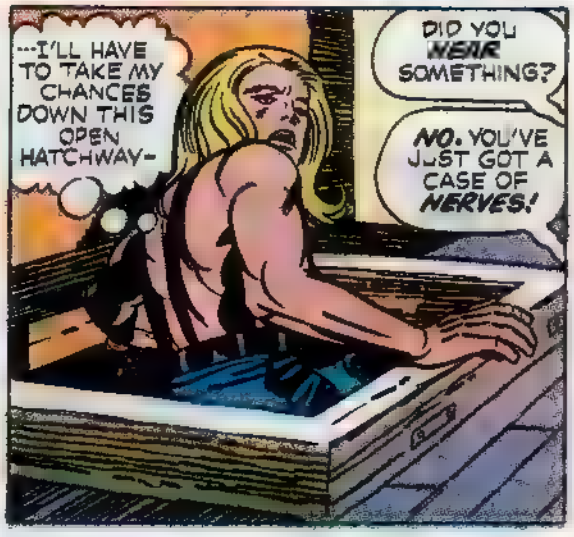

BY THUNDER, YOU'RE RIGHT! THE ANIMAL CAN SPEAK!
IT'S UNCANNY, CAPTAIN! THAT'S WHAT IT IS! IT MAKES A MAN FEEL WEIRD IN HIS SOCKETS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, SIR!
W-WHERE AM I---? WHO ARE YOU-?
WHA-? LEOPARDS! YOU'RE LEOPARDS!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT NOW, SIR?
SINK ME, IF HE ISN'T A VERY FOUNTAIN OF WORDS! HE'S A PRIZE, SEAMAN! ---A PRIZE CATCH!
YOU BIG WINDBAG! WHERE ARE MY FRIENDS? DID YOU PICK THEM UP, TOO!?
HERE, NOW! SOFTEN THAT TONGUE O' YOURS WHEN ADDRESSIN' THE CAPTAIN!
SLAPP!
OW!
IDIOT! I'LL STAND FOR NO MISTREATMENT OF THIS ANIMAL!
POW!
UGH! ---AS YOU SAY, SIR---
6

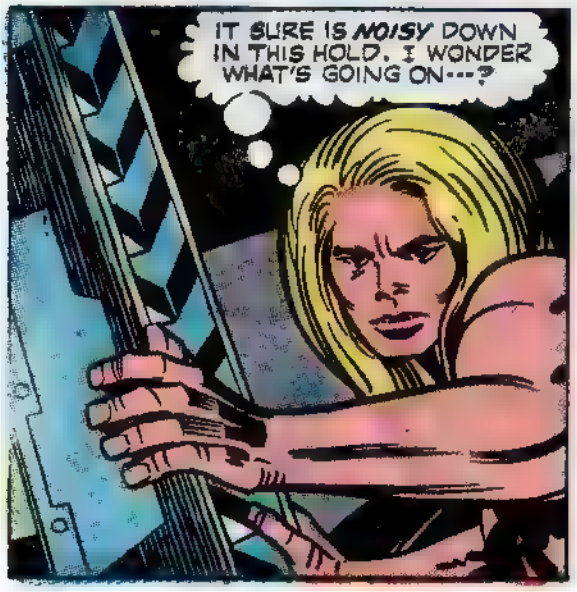

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH HE'S WORTH IN COLD CASH!
AYE AYE, SIR···
THE LASH WAITS FOR ANY SWAB WHO HARMS THIS ANIMAL!
AT THAT MOMENT, A STRANGE, UNNERVING SOUND RISES FROM SOMEWHERE ON THE SHIP···
KKKIKLIGGIGIKK
W-WHAT'S THAT-?
I-IT'S HIM AGAIN, SIR! ---THE DEVIL!
SAY, WHAT KIND OF SHIP IS THIS? WHAT KIND OF CARGO ARE YOU CARRYING?
HEH-HEH! LIKE YOURSELF, ANIMAL, I'D SAY IT'S MOSTLY LIVE CARGO!
TALKING WITH AN ANIMAL IS ENOUGH TO SHAKE A MAN!
LET'S CHECK ON THE DEVIL, SEAMAN!
···GOT TO FREE MYSELF! ---GOT TO---!
KAMANDI STRUGGLES FURIOUSLY WITH HIS BONDS WHEN HIS CAPTORS LEAVE!
UGH!---IT'S ONLY ONE STEEL CUFF. IF I CAN PULL MY HAND THROUGH IT---IF I CAN ONLY---
STOICALLY ENDURING THE PRESSURE, KAMANDI SLOWLY MANAGES TO SQEEZE HIS HAND OUT OF ITS METAL PRISON···
I-I'M--- MAKING ---IT---!
7


WITH A FINAL CAREFUL PULL, KAMANDI FINDS HIMSELF FREE ONCE MORE!
MY HAND FEELS NUMB, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANY DAMAGE.
NOW TO TAKE STOCK OF THIS SITUATION---!
THESE SEA-GOING LEOPARDS SEEM TO BE TRADERS OF SORTS. THIS CABIN IS FILLED WITH PRE-DISASTER ARTIFACTS.
HUH! I'VE SEEN ALL THESE ITEMS ON MICRO-FILM IN THE BUNKER COMPLEX WHERE I WAS RAISED---
---TELEPHONES, CAMERAS, TAPE RECORDERS, HOUSEHOLD MERCHANDISE LOOTED FROM THE GRAVEYARD OF WHAT WAS ONCE MY OWN KIND.
AND NOW THESE LEOPARDS ROAM THE WORLD IN SHIPS--- WHILE MEN LIVE IN WILD HERDS ---HUNTED AND ENSLAVED!
THINGS WILL CHANGE SOMEDAY! I HOPE TO SEE MEN TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS LEADERS OF THIS WORLD!
BUT, RIGHT NOW, I MUST LOOK TO MY OWN SURVIVAL.
8

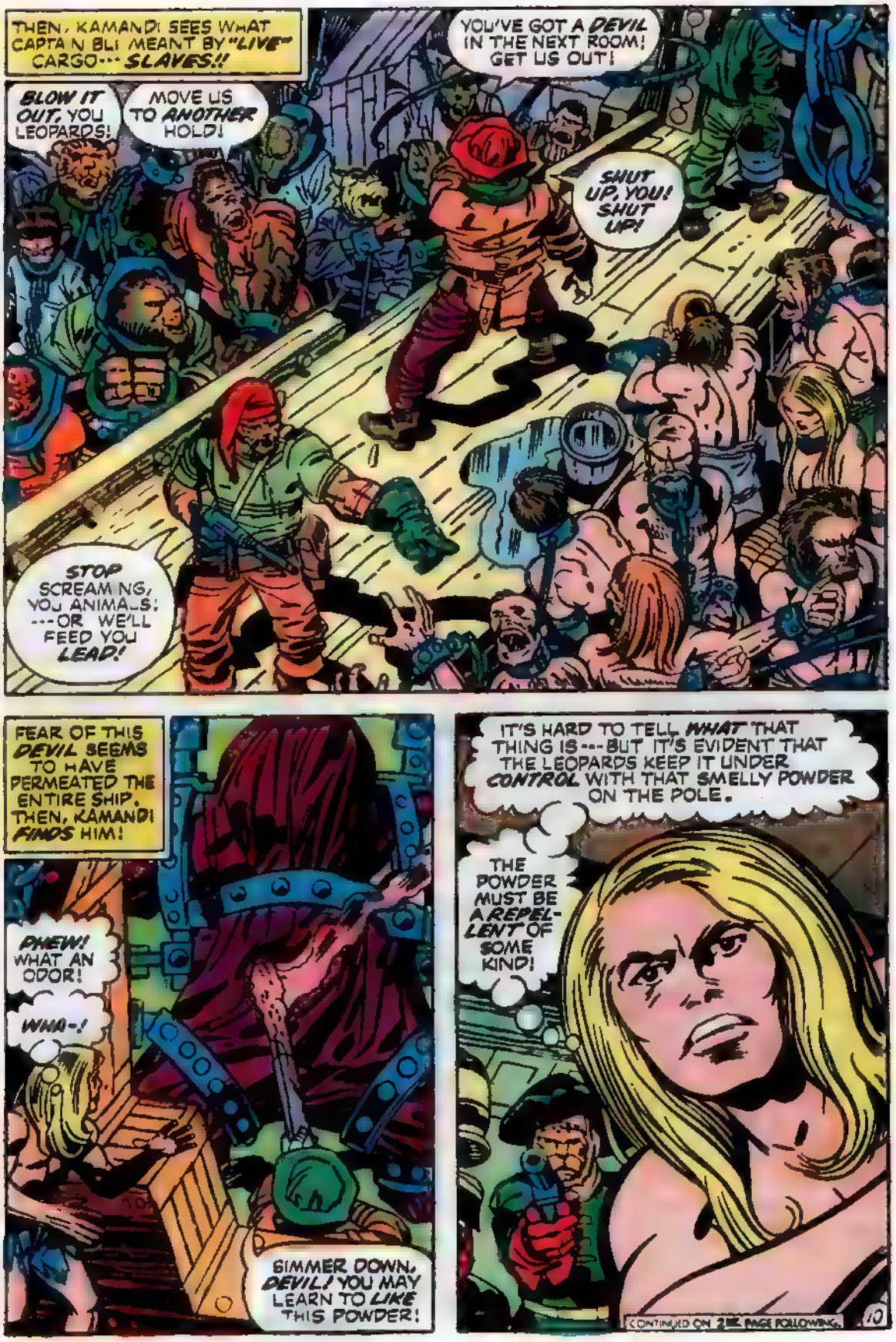

KAMANDI CAUTIOUSLY STEALS PAST A ROOM FILLED WITH OFF-DUTY LEOPARD SEA ROVERS---
HAHAHA! RUN IT AGAIN, KORK!
THIS IMAGE MACHINE REALLY WORKS! ---IT'S MORE FUN THAN WATCHING THE DEVIL!
CAPTURING H.M. ALMOST COST US THE SHIP AND THE CREW!
ONLY CAPTAIN BLI WOULD RISK OUR NECKS IN THAT SPOOKY NORTH COUNTRY!


MEANWHILE---
WE SHOULD PUT INTO PORT SOON!
OH, OH! TROUBLE HEADING THIS WAY---
I'M NOT SAILING WITH CAPTAIN BLI AGAIN ---NOT AFTER THAT TRIP INTO DEVIL COUNTRY!


---I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCES DOWN THIS OPEN HATCHWAY-
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
NO. YOU'VE JUST GOT A CASE OF NERVES!


IT SURE IS NOISY DOWN IN THIS HOLD. I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON---?

MACHINE GUNS-! THESE LEOPARDS TRADE IN MORE THAN HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!
KEEP THAT TRASH QUIET!
I SAID QUIET!
9


THEN, KAMANDI SEES WHAT CAPTAIN BLI MEANT BY "LIVE" CARGO··· SLAVES!!
YOU'VE GOT A DEVIL IN THE NEXT ROOM! GET US OUT!
BLOW IT OUT, YOU LEOPARDS!
MOVE US TO ANOTHER HOLD!
SHUT UP, YOU! SHUT UP!
STOP SCREAMING, YOU ANIMALS; ···OR WE'LL FEED YOU LEAD!
FEAR OF THIS DEVIL SEEMS TO HAVE PERMEATED THE ENTIRE SHIP. THEN, KAMANDI FINDS HIM!
PHEW! WHAT AN ODOR!
WHA-!
SIMMER DOWN, DEVIL! YOU MAY LEARN TO LIKE THIS POWDER!
IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT THAT THING IS··· BUT IT'S EVIDENT THAT THE LEOPARDS KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL WITH THAT SMELLY POWDER ON THE POLE.
THE POWDER MUST BE A REPELLENT OF SOME KIND!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
10

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This 7" 33⅓ RPM special sound effects record is not sold in any store. Be the first to get it.

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MR. BALDY BIGSHOT SKIN HEAD WIG

Now's your chance to play the "big shot". You'll be "the boss" when you put on this skin head wig and look several years older. You'll get a million laughs!

Item no. 102 Only $1.00

GIANT VAMPIRE BAT

This creepy creature of the night is made of life-like black rubber. Its wings spread out to a full 13" across and flap with a life-like motion as you jiggle its cord. Hang it in your room, car or anywhere else you think it will "shock" them.

Item no. 103 Only $1.00

THE SECRET SEAT BOMB

Place this secret seat bomb under the cushion of any chair or couch. When someone sits on it, the "BOMB" goes off with a blast! You'll get a million laughs. Completely harmless and may be used over and over again

Item no. 107 Only 50¢

MAGICIAN'S BAG OF TRICKS

Your friends will be shocked and amazed at your new abilities to mystify and fool them. This bag of tricks contains all you'll need — four secret magician's devices plus a complete instruction book on how to do 102 different magic tricks.

Item no 105 Only $1.50

MAGIC CARDS

Fool and amaze your friends many times over with this trick deck. You'll be the hit of the party. No one will know the secrets but you. This deck comes complete with easy to follow instructions for 10 different tricks.

Item no. 106 Only $1.50

50 FIGHTER PLANES

You get 50 scale model unbreakable fighter planes of different countries — all you need to reenact history's famous air battles. Hang them from threads and fly them all at once!

Item no. 104 Only $1.00

FRANKENSTEIN MASK

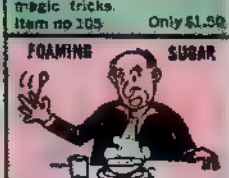
Put on this rubber face mask and you'll look like a nightmare come true. Authentic in detail—you'll be sure to shake up everyone who sees you wearing it.

Item no. 201 Only $1.98

BLOODY SOAP

Smear some of this powder on any bar of soap. When someone begins to use the soap, it will turn their hands and face bloody red. You won't be able to stop laughing. Completely harmless.

Item no. 108 Only 25¢



FOAMING SUGAR

This appears to be normal sugar, but when it is dropped into liquid it foams right out of the cup, glass or bowl. Switch it for the real stuff then sit back and wait to laugh. Completely harmless.

Item no. 109 Only 25¢

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THE GREAT DISASTER HAS BROUGHT *MORE* THAN THE ASCENDANCY OF THE BEAST. KAMANDI HAS ONLY SEEN A SMALL PORTION OF *EARTH A.D.* <AFTER DISASTER>—HE REALIZES THAT HE'S IN STORE FOR FURTHER SURPRISES··· FOR THE NEXT ONE IS ALMOST UPON HIM. IT'S CALLED

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CHAPTER 3
SO! WE'VE TRACKED DOWN THE RUNAWAY ANIMAL!
NAHAHAHA! LET ME GIVE 'IM A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DEVIL, CAPTAIN!
HEY! WHAT IN BLAZES—?

Y' HAVEN'T SMELLED NOTHIN' YET!
POWDER, ... STRONG... CAN'T... BREATHE-
HERE'S A GOOD WHIFF OF IT, BEASTIE! IT'LL TAKE ALL THE FIGHT OUT O'YE!
UGHHHH! TAKE IT AWAY--- CAN'T STAND IT---!
HAHAHAHAH! CRAWLIN' FROM IT WON'T HELP YE NONE!
STOP IT! STOP IT-!
YOU'LL BE NICE AND PEACEFUL, NOW...
NO...NO ...I...
HERE'S YOUR RUNAWAY, CAPTAIN BLI---HE'S CALM AS A KITTEN...
PUT HIM IN CHAINS WITH THE OTHER TRASH!
THE SACKER'S COMPANY PAID FOR THIS EXPEDITION! THEY'LL DECIDE THE FATE OF THIS CARGO,...AND THAT INCLUDES THE DEVIL!
WE'LL SOON BE DOCKING. SO, PREPARE TO DISEMBARK!
CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING
12

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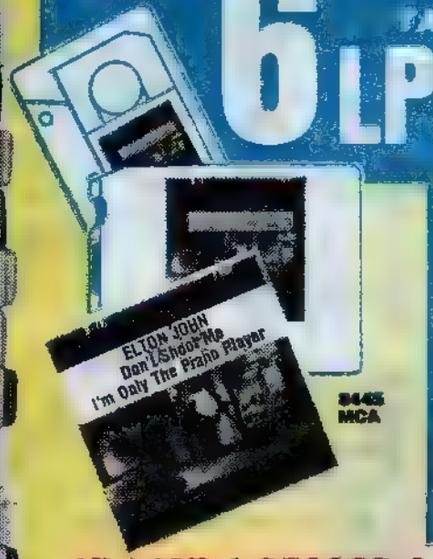

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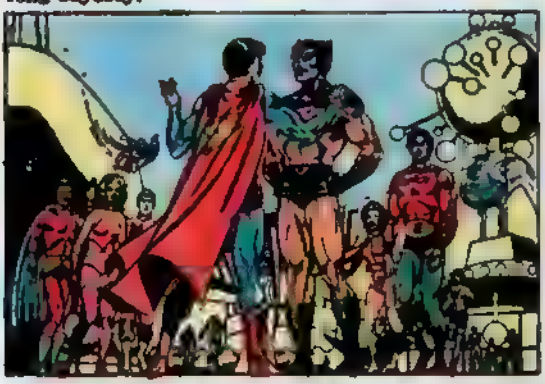
It's time for a historical look at one of *DC's* most interesting features—a group of super-heroes who have been fighting for 15 years to earn a permanent home in one of our magazines . . .

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

The Legion was born in the April, 1958 issue of Adventure Comics (#247) when *Superboy* traveled through time to the future to join a club of super-beings. Editor Mort Weisinger never intended them to become regular supporting characters, but the demand for the *Legion* was so great that he had to bring them back dozens of times in the next few years, to play bit parts in practically every one of the *Superman* family magazines that he edited, from *Action* to *Jimmy Olsen*. Even in the days before most comics had letters pages, the *Legion* had a large band of supporters, which seemingly grew along with the super-hero club (It had grown from three members to about 15). Finally, they got their chance at a series of their own . . .

The Bizarros (Anyone out there remember *Superman's* imperfect double and his family?) had worn out their welcome as the back-feature in *Adventure Comics*, so the *Legion* took over with #300 in September, 1962, with *Superboy* soloing in the lead story, as he had for over 15 years.

The Legion's supporters were not going to settle for a mere back-feature: within a year, they had boosted the sales of *Adventure* issues with the *Legion* on the cover so much that our favorite super-stars took over the book—first as a 17-page cover feature, and then with book-length tales in a magazine re-titled *Adventure Comics featuring Superboy and The Legion of Super-Heroes! The Legion* held onto that slot until 1969 when *Supergirl* took over *Adventure* and they moved to the back of *Action Comics*, as they took another step backward on their long odyssey.



When Weisinger retired in 1971, Murray Boltinoff picked up the *Legion* for his stable of characters and featured them in the back of *Superboy*, picking former fans Cary Bates and Dave Cockrum (a life-long *Legion* freak) to handle the creative chores.

The masses of *Legion* fans still weren't happy; they insisted that DC give the *Legion* its own mag again. Everyone at the office thought that they deserved another chance, too, so a *Legion* reprint mag was published to test the sales potential. It succeeded, and if you pick up a new issue of *Superboy*, you'll find that it's now *Superboy* and *The Legion of Super-Heroes*. *The Legion* has come full circle again, and I hope they stay around another 15 years!

FLASH! The lives of the *Legionnaires* will be changed drastically by the events that are going to take place in *Superboy* #200, so no *Legion* fan can dare to miss that one! Watch *Direct Currents* for the exact on-sale date!

* * * * *

A few months ago, I wrote a *Behind The Scenes* column which talked about the Comic Art Convention, and I mentioned a few things about comic fans. Since then, I've received a number of letters asking more about the world of these people, and how to get involved in fandom. This month, then, let's take a long look at . . .

COMIC FANS!

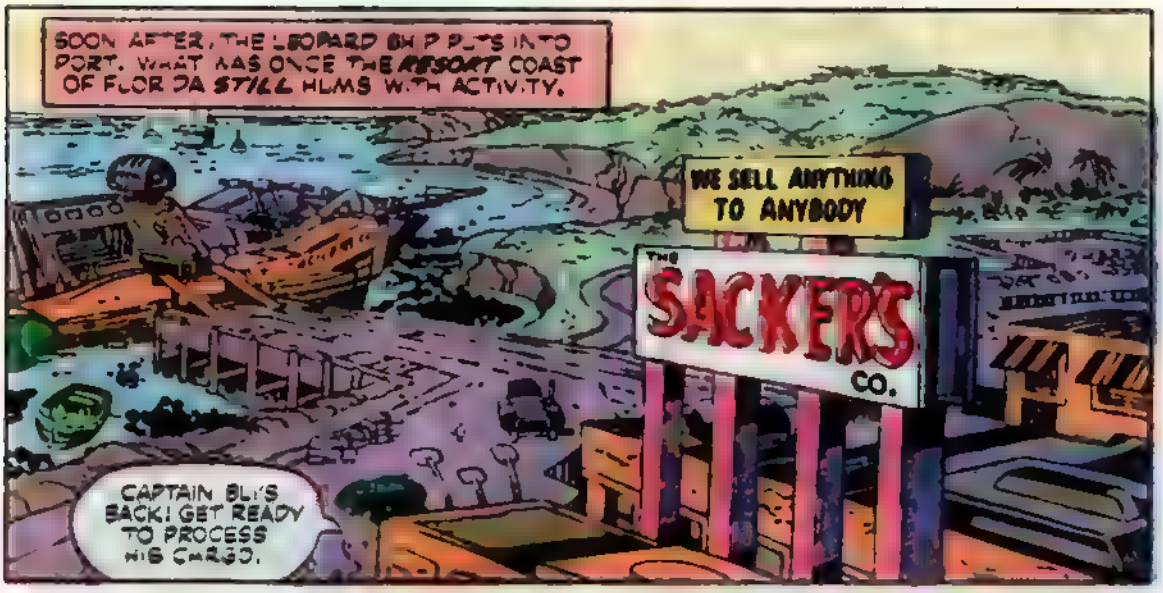
Comic fans are people who can tell you every issue of every comic that *Superman* ever appeared in, who drew it, and what the title of the story was. They know the date that the new comics are due at their newsstands, and which ones are due out in any given week. They've been known to spend up to $500 for a copy of an old comic book, and deals for whole collections often run into thousands of dollars. They publish magazines about comics, ranging from news to unpublished stories by professional artists like Neal Adams or Berni Wrightson.

Conventions of fans take place all the time, all over the country. Regular monthly "cons" are held in New York City and Boston, and larger, annual affairs, are held in most major cities. If you want to enter the world of fandom, that's the best place to do it! A complete listing of conventions is unavailable, but a good list is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope from Phil Seuling, 621 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, New York 11223.

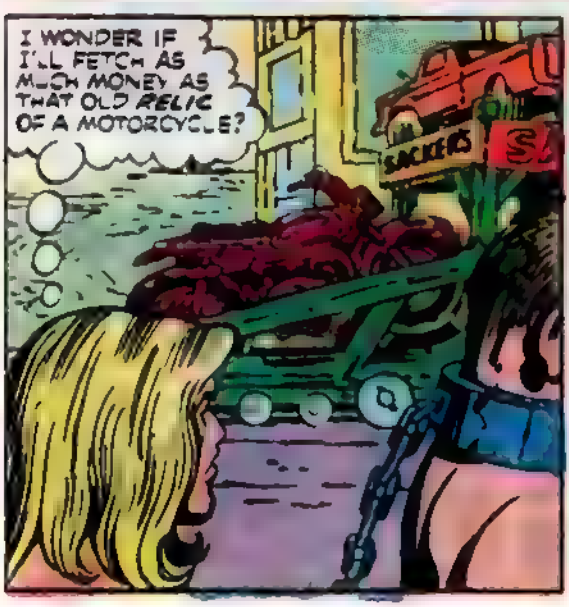
It's a bit harder to get a hold of a list of quality fan magazines, however, I'll steer you in the direction of two of the most popular ones, and you can go from there. The first, if the truth be known, is my own magazine. (Secret identity revealing time, folks!) *The Comic Reader*, which is the *TV Guide* for the comics industry, is available from a hack named Paul Levitz at Post Office Box #23, Brooklyn, New York 11203. If you're more interested in reading comics than reading about comics, try *The Menomonee Falls Gazette*, a weekly newspaper composed entirely of comic strips, including Golden Age episodes of Superman and Tarzan, and strips by DC greats like Frank Robbins, Neal Adams, Doug Wildey, and an editor by the name of Archie Goodwin. Write for details to Post Office Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, 53051.

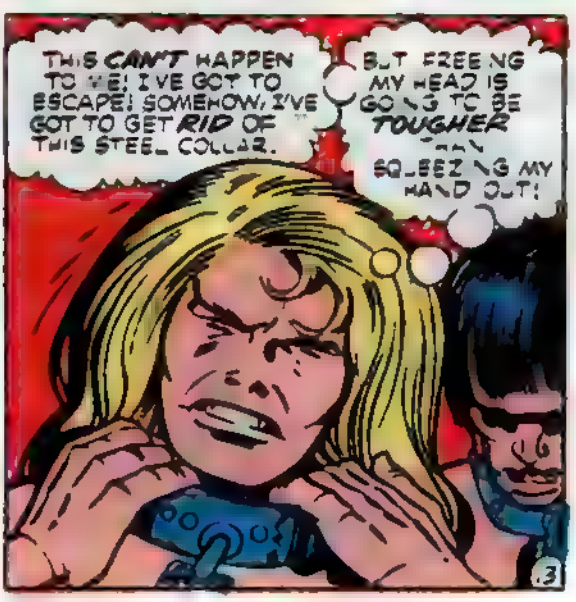
All this should start you on a career as a comic fan if that's what you're interested in. It's a wonderful world, and a lot of fun, and I hope you'll become a part of it.

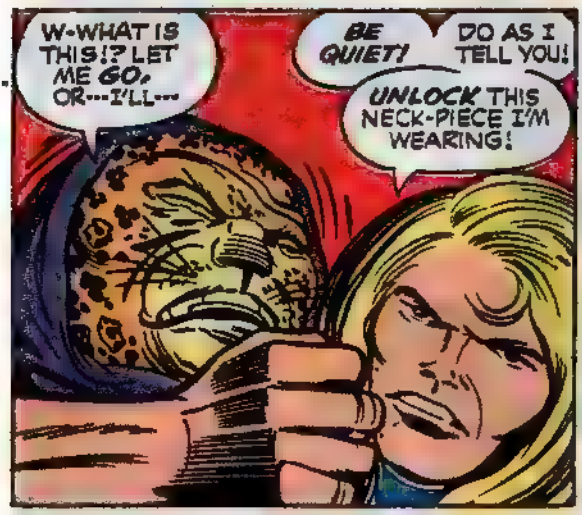
—Paul Levitz

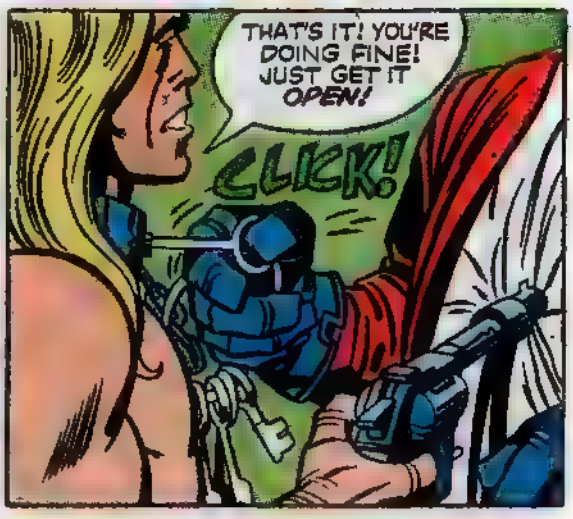

SOON AFTER, THE LEOPARD SHIP PUTS INTO PORT. WHAT WAS ONCE THE RESORT COAST OF FLORIDA STILL HUMS WITH ACTIVITY.
WE SELL ANYTHING TO ANYBODY
THE SACKERS CO.
CAPTAIN BLIS BACK! GET READY TO PROCESS HIS CARGO.

THEN···
UNLOAD THE CARGO! MOVE IT! THE SACKERS HAVE CUSTOMERS WAITING!
I-I'M TO BE SOLD··· ···LIKE MERCHANDISE···

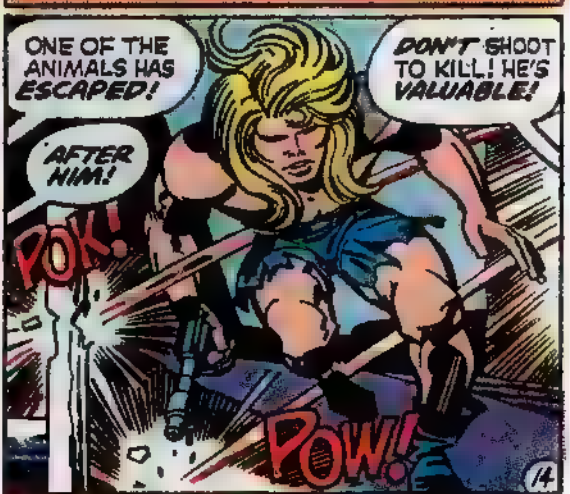

I WONDER IF I'LL FETCH AS MUCH MONEY AS THAT OLD RELIC OF A MOTORCYCLE?
SACKERS


THIS CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME! I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE! SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THIS STEEL COLLAR.
BUT FREEING MY HEAD IS GOING TO BE TOUGHER THAN SQUEEZING MY HAND OUT!





ARMED AND FREE, KAMANDI DASHES FOR COVER! BEHIND HIM, THE AIR ECHOES WITH SHOUTS OF ALARM!



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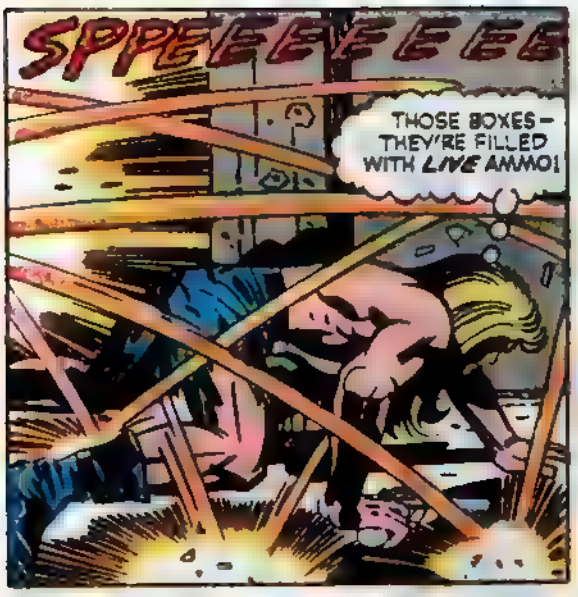
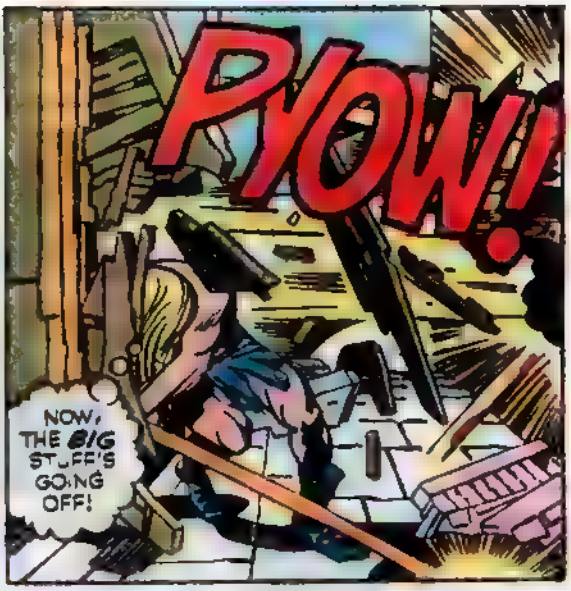
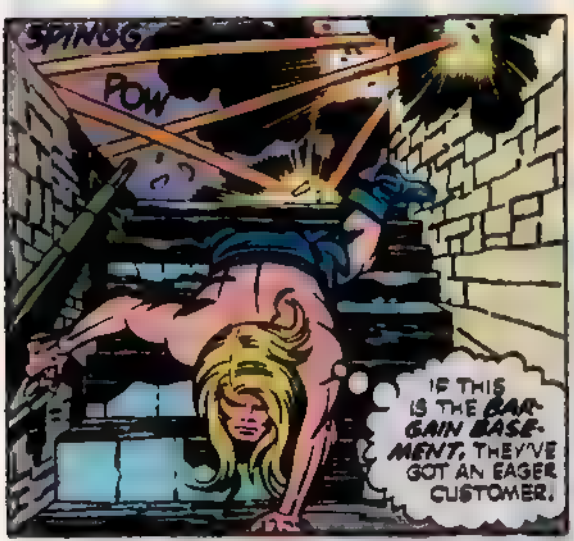
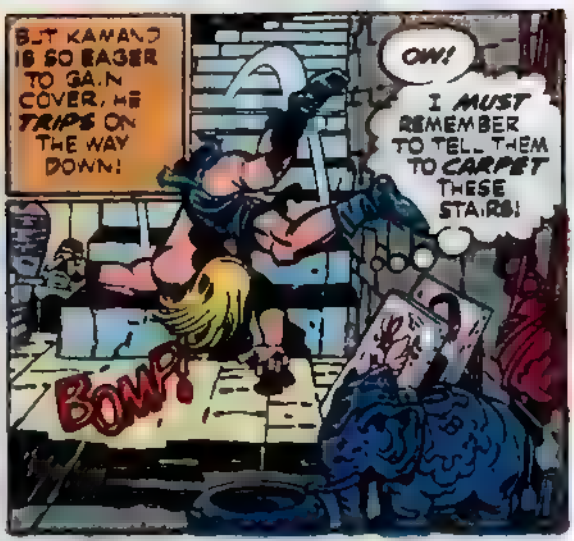
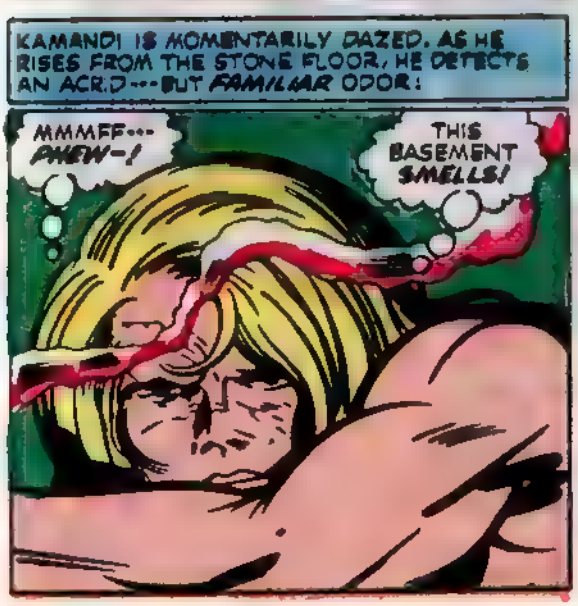
THERE HE IS!
LOOK OUT!
AAAAA-!
POW!
POW!
SINK US! THE ANIMAL KNOWS HOW TO USE A PISTOL!
YOU ASKED FOR A SHOOT-OUT AND YOU GOT ONE!
GRENADES
DON'T PLAY WITH HIM! HE'S DANGEROUS!
YOU BET I AM!...WHEN MY HIDE'S ON THE LINE!
POW!
THIS TIME, WE SHOOT TO KILL!
WAIT...! THAT BOX-!
KA BLAAM!
WHOF!
15


SPEEEEEEEE
THOSE BOXES — THEY'RE FILLED WITH LIVE AMMO!


PYOW!
NOW, THE BIG STUFF'S GOING OFF!


SPINGG
POW
IF THIS IS THE BARGAIN BASEMENT, THEY'VE GOT AN EAGER CUSTOMER.

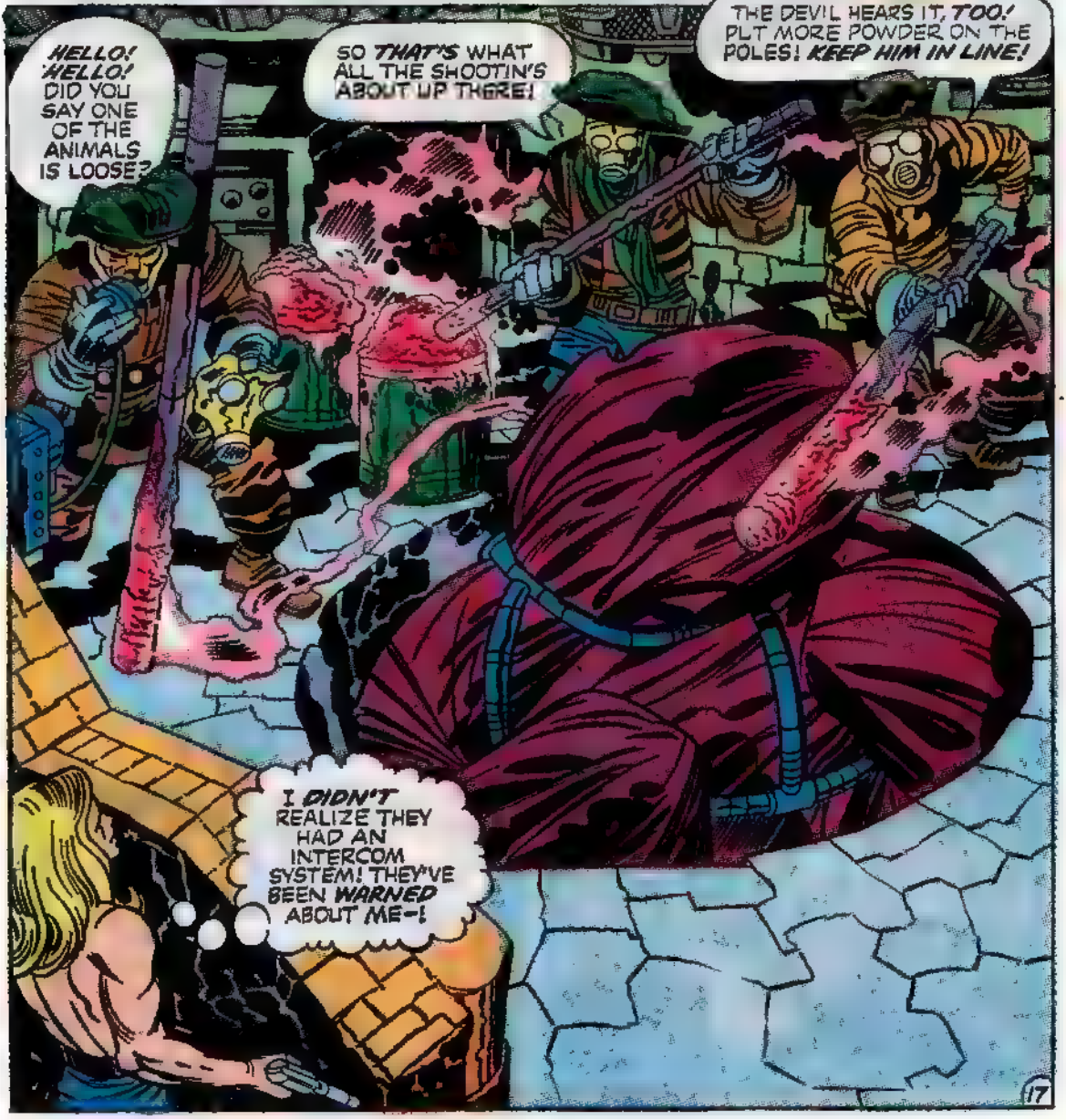

BUT KAMANDI IS SO EAGER TO GAIN COVER, HE TRIPS ON THE WAY DOWN!
OW!
I MUST REMEMBER TO TELL THEM TO CARPET THESE STAIRS!
BOMP!

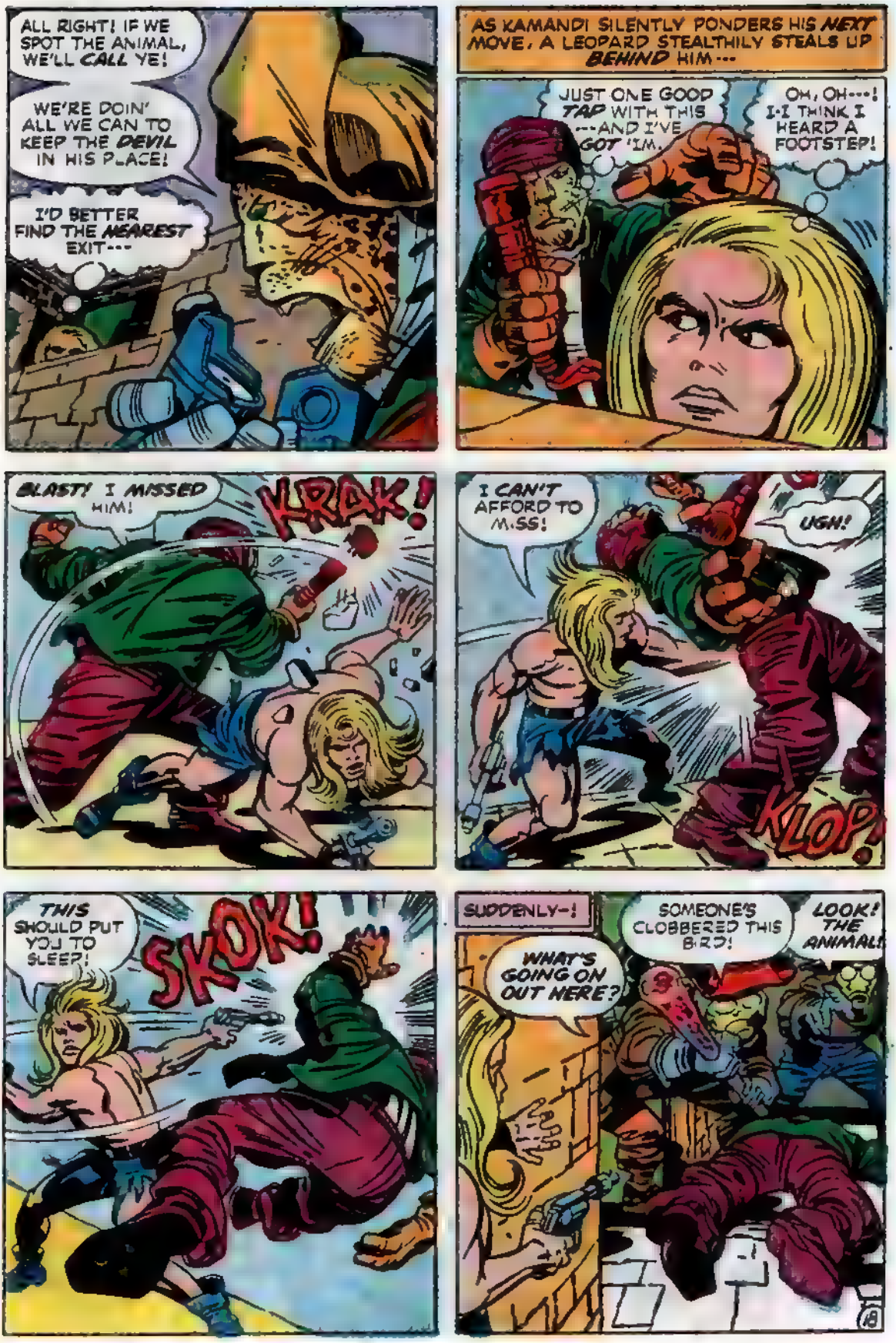

KAMANDI IS MOMENTARILY DAZED. AS HE RISES FROM THE STONE FLOOR, HE DETECTS AN ACRID — BUT FAMILIAR ODOR!
MMMFF... PHEW—!
THIS BASEMENT SMELLS!

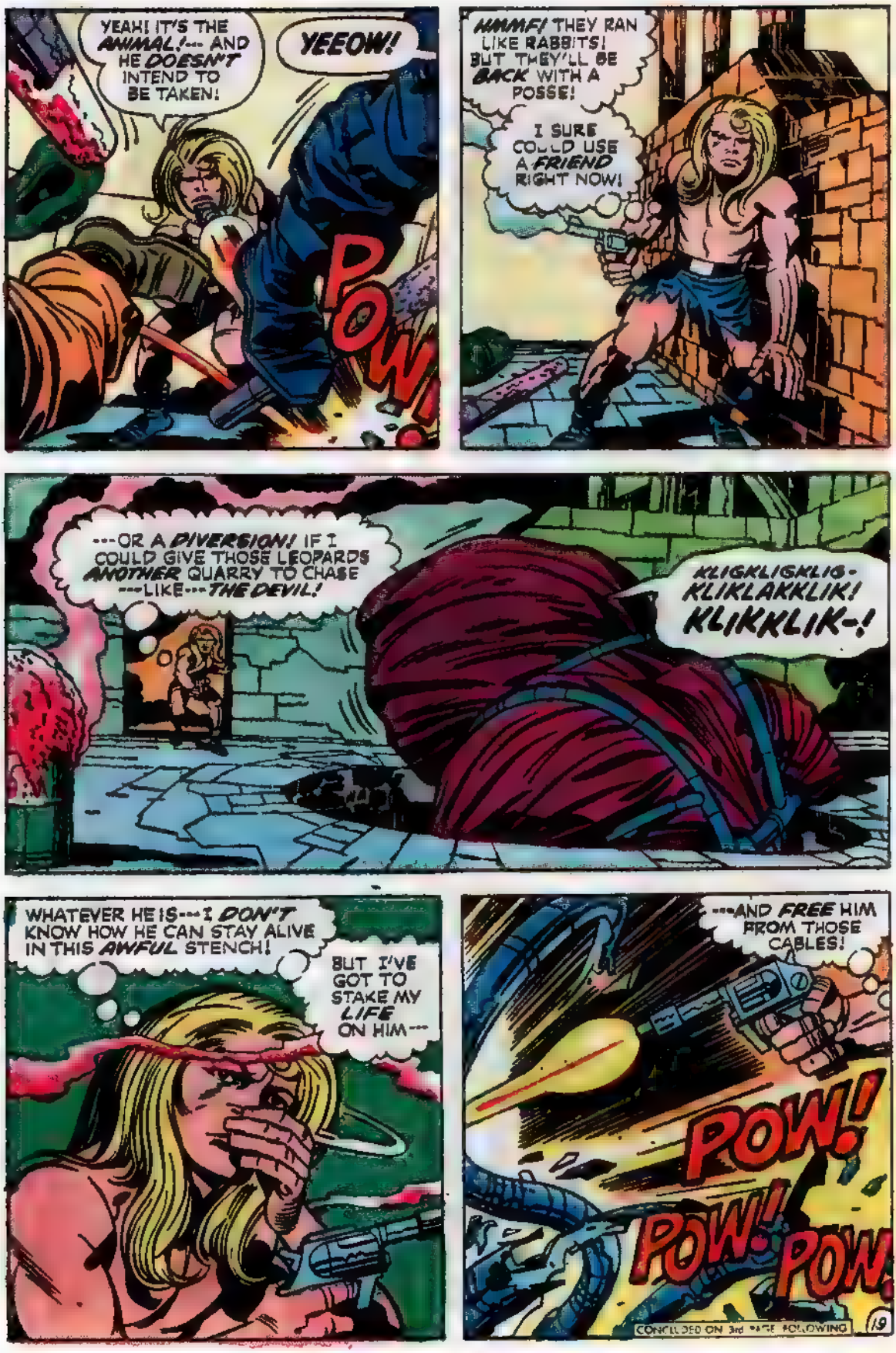
THAT SMELL! IT'S THE REPELLENT! THEY'VE GOT THE DEVIL DOWN HERE!
6

THE WAY TO FREEDOM CAN LEAD THROUGH THE JAWS OF *FEAR* AND *SUPERSTITION* AND KILL A MAN BEFORE HE SEES THE LIGHT. KAMANDI WILL HAVE TO MAKE THAT *DEADLY* RUN, BECAUSE FATE WILL GIVE HIM NO CHOICE! SHE WILL THRUST HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL AND FACE HIM WITH THE---

UNMASKED TERROR! CHAPTER 4


HELLO! HELLO! DID YOU SAY ONE OF THE ANIMALS IS LOOSE?
SO *THAT'S* WHAT ALL THE SHOOTIN'S ABOUT UP THERE!
THE DEVIL HEARS IT, *TOO!* PUT MORE POWDER ON THE POLES! *KEEP HIM IN LINE!*
I *DIDN'T* REALIZE THEY HAD AN INTERCOM SYSTEM! THEY'VE BEEN *WARNED* ABOUT ME-!


ALL RIGHT! IF WE SPOT THE ANIMAL, WE'LL CALL YE!
WE'RE DOIN' ALL WE CAN TO KEEP THE DEVIL IN HIS PLACE!
I'D BETTER FIND THE NEAREST EXIT---
AS KAMANDI SILENTLY PONDERS HIS NEXT MOVE, A LEOPARD STEALTHILY STEALS UP BEHIND HIM---
JUST ONE GOOD TAP WITH THIS ---AND I'VE GOT 'IM.
OH, OH---! I-I THINK I HEARD A FOOTSTEP!
BLAST! I MISSED HIM!
KRAK!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!
UGH!
KLOP!
THIS SHOULD PUT YOU TO SLEEP!
SKOK!
SUDDENLY-!
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?
SOMEONE'S CLOBBERED THIS BIRD!
LOOK! THE ANIMAL!


YEAH! IT'S THE ANIMAL!--- AND HE DOESN'T INTEND TO BE TAKEN!
YEEOW!
POW!
MMMF! THEY RAN LIKE RABBITS! BUT THEY'LL BE BACK WITH A POSSE!
I SURE COULD USE A FRIEND RIGHT NOW!
---OR A DIVERSION! IF I COULD GIVE THOSE LEOPARDS ANOTHER QUARRY TO CHASE ---LIKE--- THE DEVIL!
KLIGKLIGKLIG-KLIKLAKKLIK! KLIKKLIK-!
WHATEVER HE IS---I DON'T KNOW HOW HE CAN STAY ALIVE IN THIS AWFUL STENCH!
BUT I'VE GOT TO STAKE MY LIFE ON HIM---
---AND FREE HIM FROM THOSE CABLES!
POW!
POW!
POW!
CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING
19

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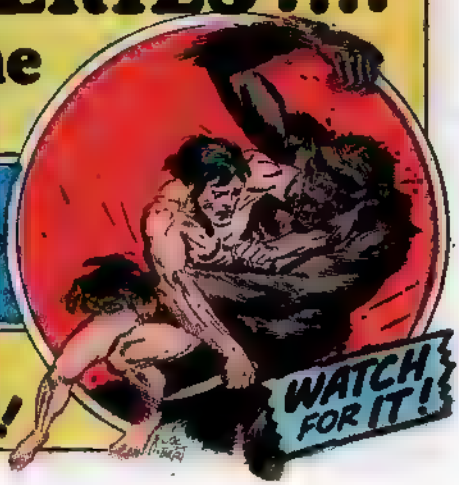

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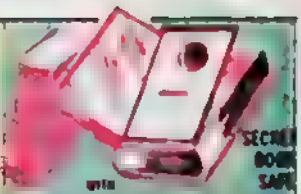

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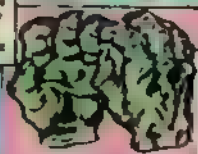

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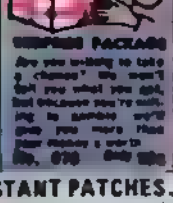

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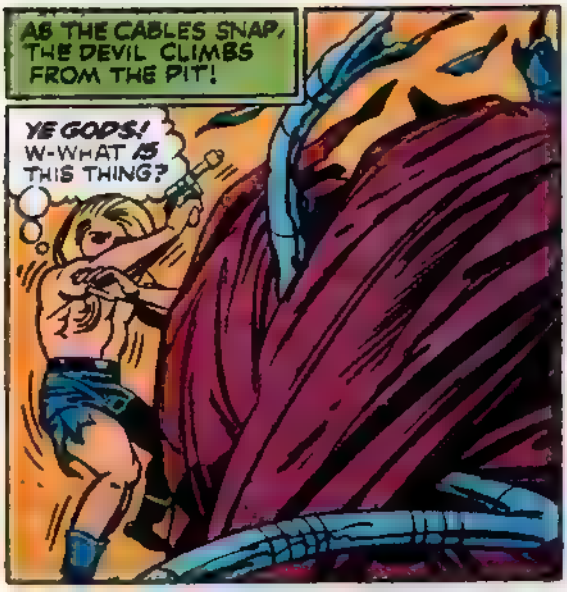
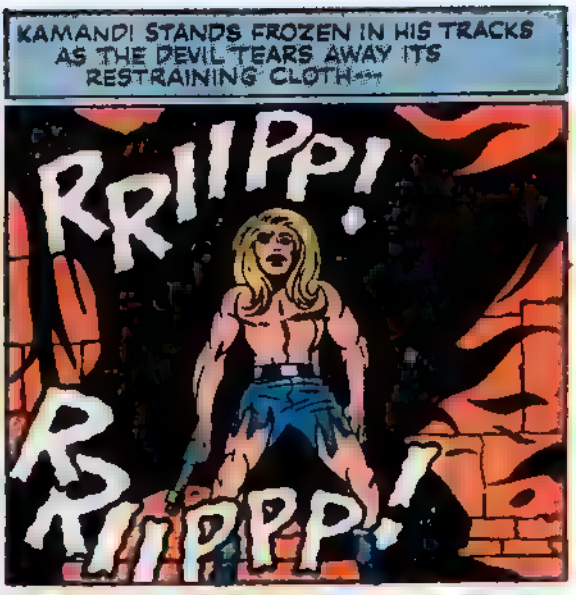
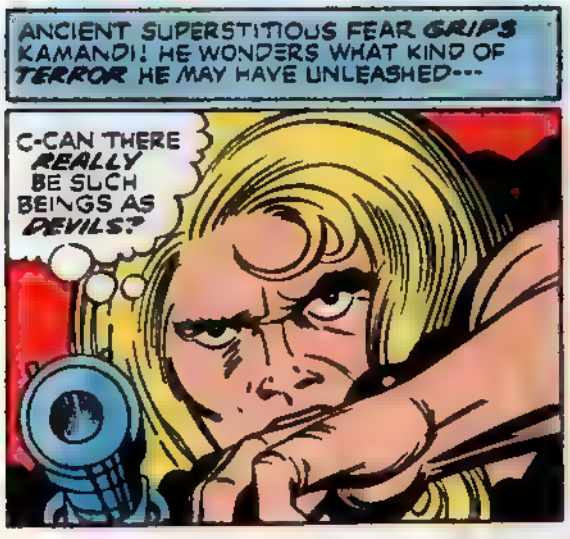
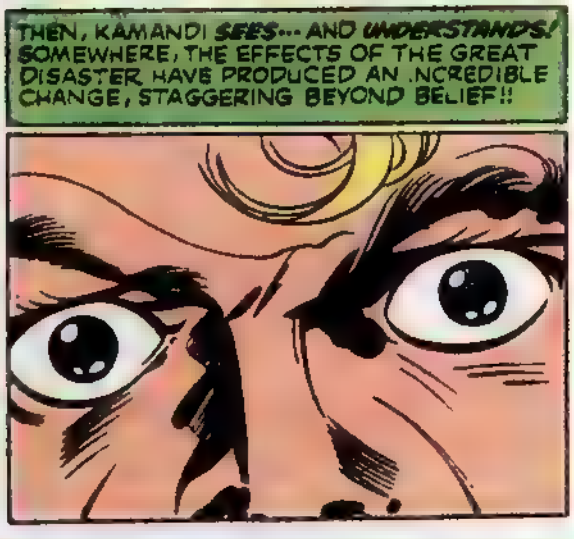
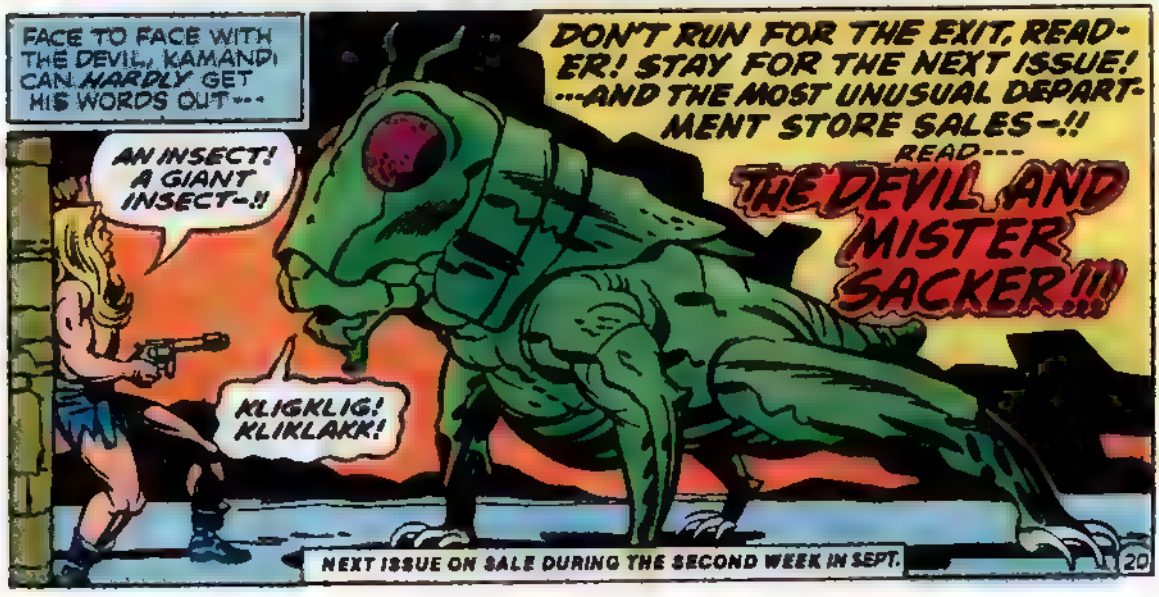

AS THE CABLES SNAP, THE DEVIL CLIMBS FROM THE PIT!
YE GODS! W-WHAT IS THIS THING?


KAMANDI STANDS FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS AS THE DEVIL TEARS AWAY ITS RESTRAINING CLOTH---
RRIIPP!
RRIIPPP!


ANCIENT SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR GRIPS KAMANDI! HE WONDERS WHAT KIND OF TERROR HE MAY HAVE UNLEASHED---
C-CAN THERE REALLY BE SUCH BEINGS AS DEVILS?


THEN, KAMANDI SEES--- AND UNDERSTANDS! SOMEWHERE, THE EFFECTS OF THE GREAT DISASTER HAVE PRODUCED AN INCREDIBLE CHANGE, STAGGERING BEYOND BELIEF!!


FACE TO FACE WITH THE DEVIL, KAMANDI CAN HARDLY GET HIS WORDS OUT---
AN INSECT! A GIANT INSECT-!!
KLIGKLIG! KLIKLAKK!
DON'T RUN FOR THE EXIT, READER! STAY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE! ---AND THE MOST UNUSUAL DEPARTMENT STORE SALES-!! READ---
THE DEVIL AND MISTER SACKER!!!
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN SEPT.
20

THE TIME CAPSULE

By Steve Sherman

X-422

As expected, KAMANDI #6 initiated a barrage of mail from readers everywhere. Rather than comment on each one, here is a general sampling of the overall tone of the letters, with our responses at the end.

* * * * *

Dear Jack,

Tell me it isn't so! What, you may ask, am I referring to? KAMANDI #6, of course. I just can't believe that, so soon after introducing her, you would let anything happen to Flower. It really shook me up to see what happened to her.

I'm sure I speak for the other fans when I say, short and to the point: DON'T LET FLOWER DIE!

Joe Mier, Bruce, Wisc.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Kirby,

How can I describe KAMANDI #6 without using the word extraordinary? First let me say this: Ymm two-page spreads really do a lot for your comics!

But back to issue #6. The first thing I liked about it was seeing a lion, and to top it off, he was lighting up a stogie!! Flower was the ideal girl for Kamandi, as many of your readers probably thought also. Flower and Kamandi stuck together till the end. Having Flower shot by the puma was very touching and had a lot of meaning.

The last two pages clearly revealed the feeling you use in your work, Jack. All in all, the story was colorful and full of excitement. All of your issues of KAMANDI have been something no one else could ever *think* of creating. The very last panel on page 23 gives you something to think about, doesn't it?

Tony Schooley, Des Moines, Ia.

* * * * *

Dear Jack,

I have just finished reading KAMANDI #6 and I think this story is the best one that you have written in the Kamandi series. I have been reading it from the very beginning and I think that it is the best to come out in many years.

I liked the story-line in #6 very much, in that it brought out the fact that there are some good and humane animals in the new world in which Kamandi lives. The animals that I am speaking of are the lions, whom you showed as being kind to the humans by protecting them from the poachers. I am waiting in full anticipation for ish #7 to come out, because I want to see what the lions are going to be like.

Finally, about the ending of #6—I did not like it at all. Having Flower killed was a terrible thing to do because I had really gotten to like her very much, even though she was only in two issues. I know that killing Flower was a dramatic way to end that issue, but I really think she could have been a very good partner for Kamandi as an added member of your comic.

Shawn O. Tanner, Brunswick, Ga.

Dear Jack,

Well, after five exceedingly dull and uninspired issues, you have finally put out the first good issue of KAMANDI.

Issue #6 was the best story you've written in some time. When KAMANDI first appeared, I wrote in to say how awful it was, but now, with #6, I take it back. The killing of Flower was sad but inevitable. Only semi-intelligent, she would have continued to be a burden on Kamandi's survival. She was nice enough, but still a bother.

Now Kamandi can expand his character to greater heights without a troublesome tag-a-long. Don't resurrect her!

David Rutman

* * * * *

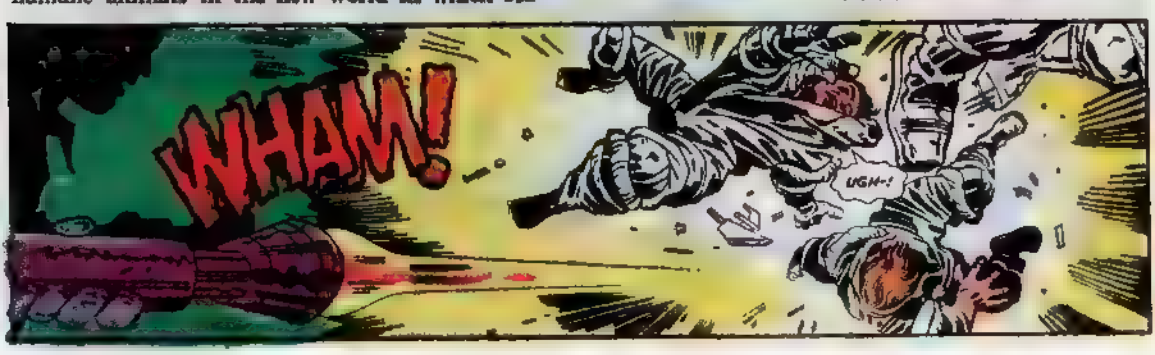
Dear Sir,

Oh, please don't let Flower die! Now, I'm probably not the only one hoping that you don't allow it to happen. Flower was a lot better than Ben Boxer. I'm not trying to put down Ben, I'm just saying that he is sort of a problem for *you!* You have to write two stories, one for Ben and one for Kamandi.

You're also playing up the animals too much, Jack. I mean in every issue—gorillas, tigers, lions. As I start to cry again, please don't let Flower die!

Casey Duling, Davenport, Ia.

* * * * *



Dear Mr. Kirby,

I was very disappointed when Flower was killed in the last issue of KAMANDI—not to mention the trite manner in which she was killed. I know she would have probably interfered with the action, somewhat, of your stories, but I think she could have been used very effectively in your maturing of Kamandi's character. She also would have added a gentle aspect to K's nature and a long needed calm spot in your stories. I think you might get my meaning in that little home-making scene, and I think you may have had the same idea, because Kamandi certainly did pause and contemplate for a few seconds in your book. Why you introduced her just to kill her in the next issue, I'll never know.

In addition, to be frank, my youngest brother says that your book is "lousy and paperthin" and my older brother says that you should get rid of Kamandi and just have all animals. He really loved the shot of the lion with the cigar hanging from his lip. So did I.

George Cooper, Columbus, O.

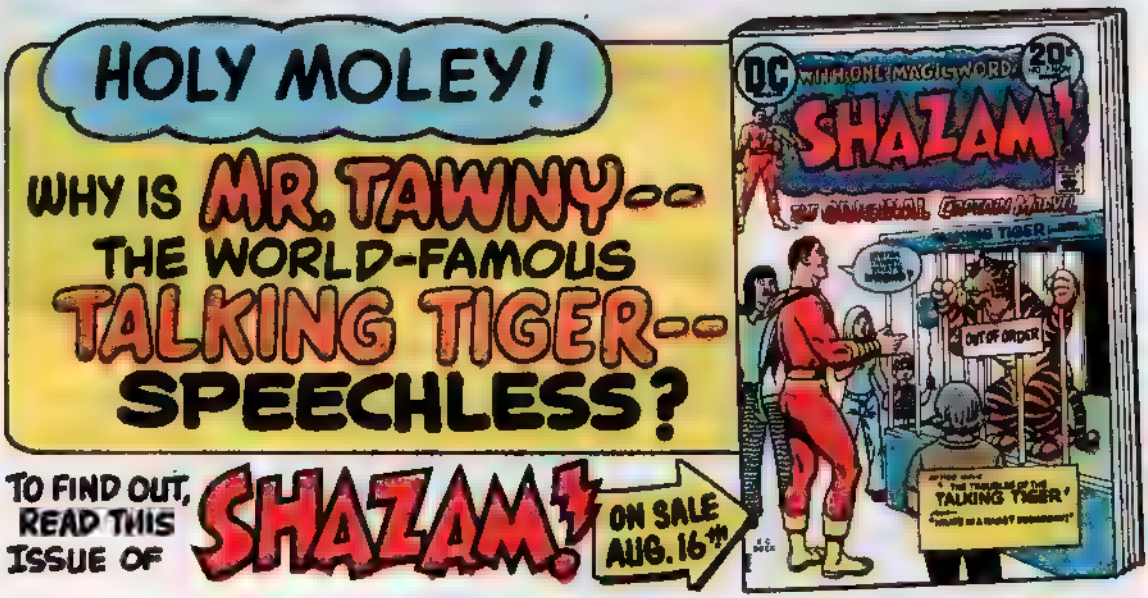
•••••

As you can see, almost everyone was sad to see Flower killed, and would have preferred to see her stay around for a few more issues, if not permanently. As I mentioned last month, Jack had the character in mind ever since he began the first issue, which would seem to indicate that Flower's role was created to be more than just a two-issue plot device.

If you've followed Jack for any length of time, you're probably aware that he likes to introduce as many characters as possible within the first dozen or so issues, and then go back and use these characters to broaden the picture. When last seen, Jack was mulling over the "Flower situation" and promises that he is not yet through "exploring the possibilities."

To finish up, there were also a few letters criticizing the way Flower's anatomy was displayed (or the lack of same). In answer to those who wondered, 1) No, there was no "fiddling" with the art after Jack was through, by the Code or anyone else. That's the way Jack drew it. 2) He drew it that way in the first place because that's the way some girls at the age of 15 look. If Jack had wanted Raquel Welch, he would've drawn Raquel Welch!! (For further lessons on the female figure, refer to MR. MIRACLE issues 4-15).

When you're finished doing that, you might like to write to us here at: THE TIME CAPSULE, P.O. BOX 336, NEWBURY PARK, CALIF. 91320. It's fast becoming America's favorite pastime!



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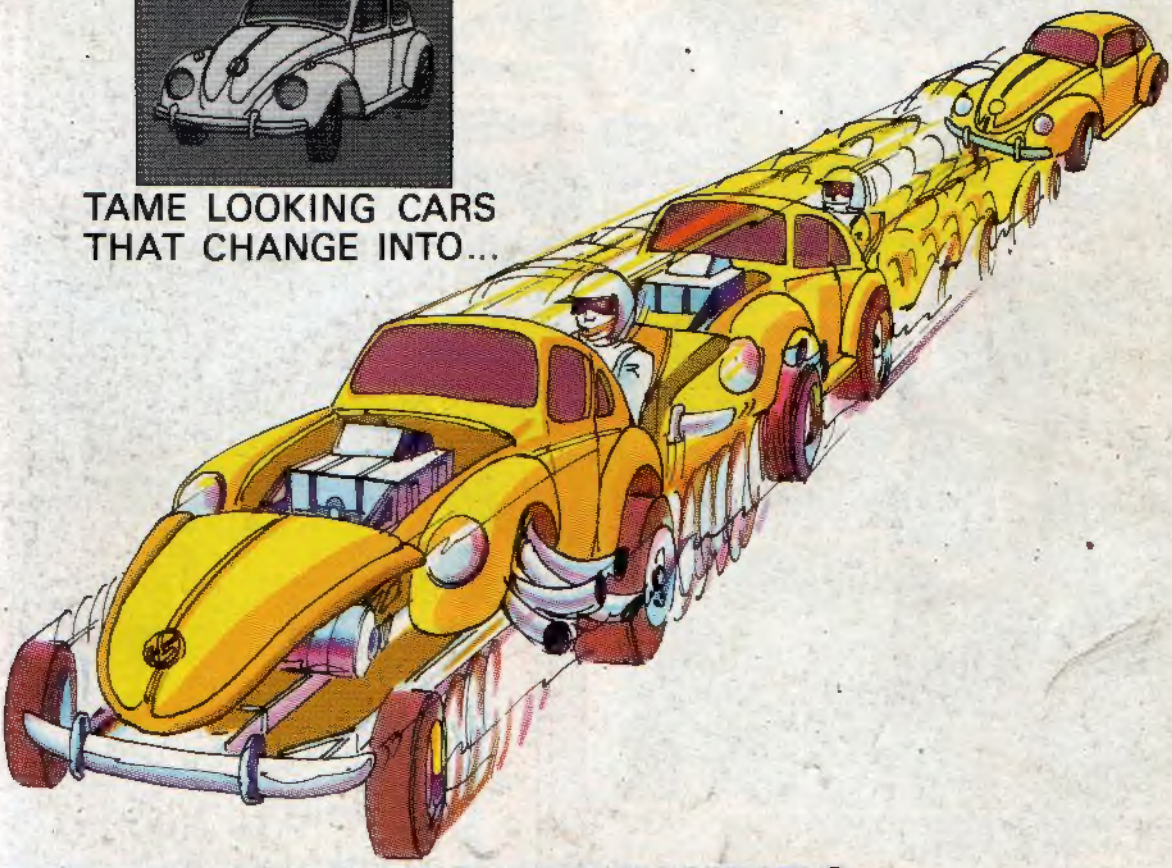

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